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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Florencia Lim

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EXAMINER

LEE, EDMUND H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1791

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/10/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Attachment to Advisory Action

1. Applicant's arguments filed 2/5/10 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Wang does not teach, prior to any expansion, annealing the tubular product because Wang teaches annealing at the end of the manufacturing process. In addition to the annealing process at the end of the manufacturing process, Wang also teaches a heating step prior to expansion of the tubular product, wherein the heating temperature and apparatus is the similar to the arrangement used to anneal the expanded tubular product (col 9, lns 21-32; col 11, lns 47-59). Since Wang teaches that the tubular product can be annealed in a water bath heated to a temperature of 25-100C (col 11, lns 47-59), it can be assumed with certainty that the heating step, prior to expansion, within a water bath and at a temperature of 90C (col 9, lns 21-32) constitutes a first annealing process.

Applicant argues that Wang teaches away from an annealing process prior to any expansion because Wang prefers to mold the balloon soon after the tube is extruded to insure conditions of the tube such as moisture content remains acceptable. Applicant's argument is inaccurate because it is taken out of context. The preferred teaching is found at the end of a paragraph discussing an embodiment where a heating and stretching step is included into the manufacturing process between the steps of extruding and expanding. Thus, a more accurate interpretation of the preferred teaching is quickly moving a heated and stretched tube to an expansion process in order to insure conditions of the tube such as moisture content remains acceptable.

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Applicant argues that Wang does not teach a second heating step performed at a temperature of not less than the temperature at which the material is radially expanded. This argument is misplaced because Wang teaches expansion molding at a temperature of about **95C** (col 10, lns 65-68) and, after expansion, heating/annealing at a temperature of 25-**100C** (col 11, lns 48-50).

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EDMUND H. LEE whose telephone number is 571.272.1204. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-THURSDAY FROM 9AM-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on 571.272.1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EDMUND H. LEE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1791

EHL

/EDMUND H. LEE/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791